



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

On August 30, 2019, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$4,297,189,000 to the State of Texas to help mitigate risks associated with natural disasters that occurred in 2015, 2016, and 2017. On March 31, 2020, the Department approved the State of Texas Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds appropriated under the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-123).

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) recently announced more than \$1 billion in infrastructure projects funded with CDBG-MIT to mitigate the effects of widespread flooding and hurricanes under grant number B-18-DP-48-0002.

In May 2020, the application process began for the first round of more than \$2.3 billion in CDBG-MIT funds. Applicants came from Texas communities hit by Hurricane Harvey and severe flooding in 2015 and 2016 as required by the Federal Register. The GLO received more than \$6.5 billion in requests in 290 applications for mitigation project funding underscoring the urgent need for increased resiliency throughout the Texas coast. Applications closed for the first round of funding October 28, 2020, and the GLO evaluated all the applications in accordance with the HUD approved scoring criteria and CDBG-MIT eligibility as published in the CDBG-MIT Action Plan. Eligible applications with the highest scores were awarded funds.

Harris County and Harris County communities, 1 of 29 counties impacted by all three eligible events, was awarded \$90.4 million from the Harvey allocation and \$26.7million from the 2016 storms allocation for a total of \$117,213,863.96 in the first round of the mitigation competition. **However, based on the amount of Hurricane Harvey damage suffered and the overall population affected in Harris County, I will be submitting an Action Plan Amendment to HUD requesting approval for a direct allocation to Harris County for \$750 million.**

We continue to work hard every day to put these federal funds to work protecting our coastal resources and communities, from our ports to our most vulnerable residents. The GLO recognizes the great need for mitigation funding within Harris County. Accordingly, GLO supports a direct allocation for Harris County, and I respectfully request you approve our Action Plan Amendment in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE P. BUSH

Commissioner, Texas General Land Office